

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 H-03 L-03 PRS-01

PA-04 USIA-15 CEA-02 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20

DOT-00 DRC-01 /196 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2825

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

E.O. 11652: DECLAS 7/31/74

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, TN

SUBJ: PROPOSED ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO TONGA FOR
ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE STUDY PROJECT

SUMMARY: ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSES TO ACT AS EXECUTING
AGENCY ON BEHALF OF UNDP FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE STUDY IN TONGA. STUDY WILL BE FINANCED
BY UNDP AND GOVT OF TONGA. USADB RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE
NAC ACTION.

1. ADB DOC R34-74 WITH ATTACHMENTS DESCRIBING PROPOSED
ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO TONGA POUCHED ADDRESSEES
APRIL 5. BOARD CONSIDERATION TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MAY 7.

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2. ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSING TO ACT AS EXECUTING AGENCY

ON BEHALF OF UNDP IN UNDERTAKING ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE STUDY IN TONGA. TOTAL COST OF STUDY IS ESTIMATED AT \$150,000 EQUIVALENT, INCLUDING FOREX COMPONENT OF \$130,000 TO BE FINANCED BY UNDP AND LOCAL CURRENCY COST OF \$20,000 TO BE FINANCED BY GOVT OF TONGA, PARTLY IN CASH AND PARTLY IN KIND. UNDP WILL PAY BANK 13 PERCENT, OR SUCH OTHER APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE, OF FOREX COST OF STUDY TO MEET OVERHEAD EXPENSES INCURRED BY BANK IN CONNECTION WITH EXECUTION OF STUDY.

3. TONGA IS AT EARLY STAGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ECONOMY IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE, WITH COCONUT AND BANANAS MAIN CROPS REPRESENTING ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF COUNTRY'S EXPORT EARNINGS. TOURISM SEEMS TO HAVE GOOD PROSPECTS, PARTLY BECAUSE ISLANDS ARE CLOSE TO MAJOR TOURIST DESTINATIONS LIKE FIJI AND PARTLY DUE TO THEIR OWN SCENIC ATTRACTIONS. WITH LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCES, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE TWO AGRICULTURAL CROPS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAJOR SOURCES OF EXPORT EARNINGS, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM, FISHERIES AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES HAVE SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH POTENTIAL.

4. LARGEST OF KINGDOM OF TONGA'S 150 ISLANDS ARE TONGA-TAPU (99 SQ. MILES), WHICH IS CAPITAL AND MAIN SEAPORT, AND VAVA'U (33 SQ. MILES). NONE OF OTHER ISLANDS EXCEED 6 SQ. MILES IN AREA. GOVT-MAINTAINED ROAD NETWORK AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 222 MILES, OF WHICH 153 MILES ARE ON TONGA-TAPU AND 46 MILES ON VAVA'U. SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ROAD NETWORK WAS PLANNED AND CONSTRUCTED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES DURING WORLD WAR II. POOR DRAINAGE RESULTING FROM FLAT TERRAIN AND LOW EMBANKMENT HEIGHTS, COUPLED WITH INCREASING TRAFFIC FLOWS AND LOADINGS HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD DETERIORATION IN NETWORK. LACK OF NECESSARY FUNDS AND EXPERTISE IN ROAD PLANNING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE HAS PREVENTED ROADS DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF WORKS (MOW) FROM IMPROVING DRAINAGE AND KEEPING UP WITH REQUIRED ROAD MAINTENANCE ON EVEN MOST ESSENTIAL ROADS, INCLUDING 13 MILES LONG MAIN ROAD FROM CAPITAL TO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON MAIN ISLAND.

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5. PROPOSED STUDY WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO PHASES OVER PERIOD OF ABOUT FIVE MONTHS. PHASE I WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH PREPARATION OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AND WITH IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ROADS NEEDED, AND WOULD INCLUDE COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTIONS. PROGRAM WOULD ALSO COVER IMPROVEMENT OF ENGINEERING STANDARDS, UPDATING OF ROAD LEGISLATION AND STRENGTHENING

OF MOW'S ROADS DIVISION, INCLUDING TRAINING OF TONGAN NATIONALS IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AND IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. PROGRAM WOULD BE SUCH THAT IT COULD BE INTEGRATED INTO NEXT FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1975/76-1979/80). PHASE II, WHICH WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER FINDINGS OF PHASE I HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY GOVT, UNDP AND BANK, WOULD INCLUDE PREPARATION OF DESIGNS, BILLS OF QUANTITIES AND TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR PRIORITY ROAD SECTIONS IDENTIFIED UNDER PHASE I AND WOULD INDICATE CLEARLY POSSIBLE TIMING OF CONSTRUCTION IN LIGHT OF GOVT'S PLANS, AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, IMPACT OF PROGRAM ON PRODUCTIVE SECTOR, SAVINGS IN MAINTENANCE COSTS AND MOW'S CAPACITY TO EXECUTE PROGRAM OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

6. FOUR-MAN CONSULTING TEAM EXPERIENCED IN PLANNING, ENGINEERING, SOIL INVESTIGATION AND ECONOMIES OF LOW-COST ROAD PLANNING WOULD BE NEEDED FOR TOTAL OF ABOUT 13 MAN MONTHS. CONSULTANTS WOULD BE ENGAGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BANK'S GUIDELINES. LOCAL SUPPORTING STAFF WOULD BE PROVIDED BY GOVT. BANK, AS EXECUTING AGENCY, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITMENT OF CONSULTANTS, FOR EXECUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROPOSED STUDY, INCLUDING LIAISON AND COORDINATION BETWEEN GOVT, UNDP AND CONSULTANTS, AND FOR SUPERVISION OF CONSULTANT'S WORK, INCLUDING EVALUATION OF THEIR REPORTS. MOW WILL BE COOPERATING AGENCY ON BEHALF OF GOVT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY.

7. PROPOSED STUDY IS EXPECTED TO LEAD TO BETTER MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD NETWORK. IT WILL SUPPORT TONGA'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM, AND GOVT IS GIVING HIGH PRIORITY TO STUDY. AFTER STUDY IS COMPLETED, IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOW WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE REORGANIZED IN SUCH WAY THAT REHABILITATION OF ROAD NETWORK AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS CAN BE UNDERTAKEN DEPARTMENTALLY, THUS AVOIDING HIGH COST OF USING FOREIGN CONTRACTORS FOR THESE WORKS. USADB SUPPORTS PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION.

8. REQUEST SUVA AND/OR WELLINGTON COMMENTS FOR NAC AGENCIES, INFO USADB MANILA, PURSUANT TO STATE 119795 DTD 3 JULY 1972.
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